

Old world pastries fill this chalet

The colorful gingerbread house that sits in the window of Graf Pastry Kitchen will be given to the children in Northville Residential Training Center on Christmas morning.

The gift will come from Hiedi and Mike Graf, whose names are on the house's chimney.

"It was a family project and our first gingerbread house," said Peter Graf, speaking of the pastry concoction his children helped put together. It is decorated with icing, gum drops, M&M's candies and a variety of cookies.

"I don't know how good it's going to taste, though," Graf said, because the light (burning through the house's red tissue paper windows) is drying it out pretty fast."

The shutters of pastry, the "flower"-filled window boxes, and the heart-shaped decorations are all typical of the German chalet, much as the Graf Pastry Kitchen is decorated, which sets the tone for the old world pastries that fill the kitchen's shelves.

GRAF STUDIED his craft in Switzerland before opening his first pastry shop in Oscoda. He and his wife Inger

have operated Graf's Pastry Kitchen on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, for the past three years.

"At this time of year we sell mostly linzer torte and stollen," Mrs. Graf said. "Both are traditional German fare at Christmas time."

A three- or four-pound loaf of stollen might have two pounds of butter in it. Tortes are all multi-layered filled only, Mrs. Graf said, with fresh whipped cream.

Tortes are now the mainstay of Graf's Pastry Kitchen and the pastry that has kept the kitchen busy making wedding cakes.

"My customers will come in for small pieces of torte, sample several different flavors and ask for a wedding cake to be delivered an hour before the reception. The torte wedding cake is one of our biggest sellers now," Graf said.

To this his wife added, "I think it's been a year since he made a plain yellow batter. With pastries so pretty and so easy for a hostess to serve, there just isn't call for a plain layer cake any more."



Peter Graf makes a roof repair on the gingerbread house that will be a gift to children in Northville Residential Training Center Christmas morning. Meanwhile the creation of pastry can be seen in Graf's

Pastry Kitchen on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads, in Rollcrest Shopping Center. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Inger Graf talks about the tortes sold in Graf's Pastry Kitchen, highly decorated and

in many flavors. The torte birthday cake bears the name of the guest of honor on a

decorated tag topping the cake. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



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